

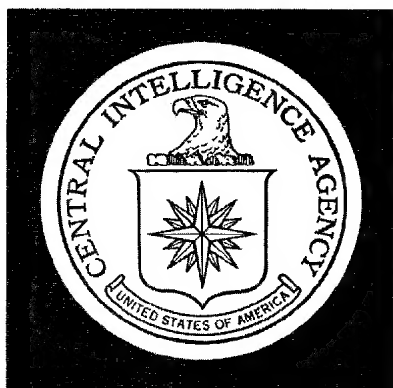
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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Vietnam

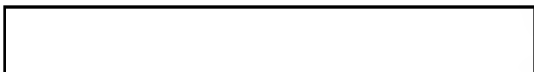
ARMY review(s) completed.

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Information as 1600
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HIGHLIGHTS

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[REDACTED] Mili-
tary activity in the South has continued at a low ebb.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:
No significant fighting was reported throughout South Vietnam today (Para. 1). Evidence of a geographical realignment of North Vietnamese Army regiments subordinate to the Communist B-3 Front western highland military command has been gleaned from recently captured enemy documents and notebooks (Paras. 2-4). Prisoner interrogation indicates that the 325th NVA Division is scheduled to deploy from western Quang Tri Province to the Da Nang area in July (Paras. 5-8).

II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:

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[REDACTED]
Premier Ky indicates in a press conference that he will name a vice-presidential running mate by 1 July (Paras. 3-4).

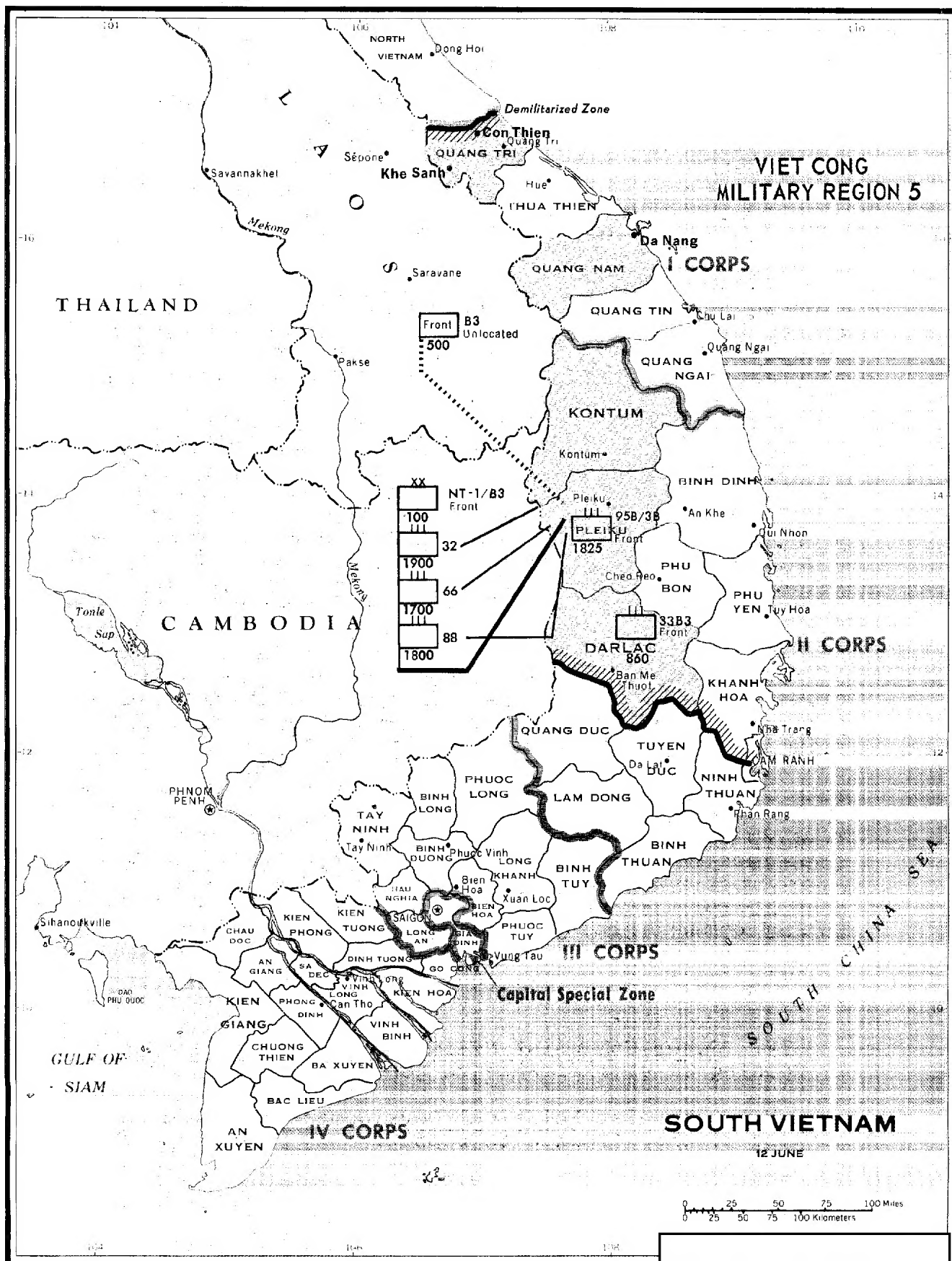
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III. Military Developments in North Vietnam: There is nothing of significance to report.

IV. Other Communist Military Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.

V. Communist Political Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.

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I. MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. With the exception of sporadic heavy fighting between US Marine/ARVN units and North Vietnamese regulars in northern Quang Tri Province and in the central I Corps province of Quang Nam, major ground action returned to a relative lull today.

Realignment of Communists' B-3 Front

2. The 33rd North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Regiment, formerly accepted by MACV as subordinate to the 1st NVA Division/B-3 Western Highlands Front, apparently separated from the division and in November 1966 moved from western Pleiku Province to central Darlac Province, according to recently captured enemy documents and notebooks. In its transition to the status of an independent regiment, the 33rd suffered a reduction in strength from 2,000 to 860 personnel. The regiment is currently believed to be operating with one full-strength and one company-strength battalion.

3. The 33rd NVA Regiment appears to have a threefold mission in Darlac Province: to maintain the B-3 Front's presence and influence in Darlac; to aid local Viet Cong units in their efforts to disrupt the Revolutionary Development program; and to provide security and supplies to units infiltrating through Darlac to the coastal provinces of II Corps.

4. The documents and notebooks further indicate that the 1,800-man 88th NVA Regiment, formerly accepted as an independent subordinate of the B-3 Front, has replaced the 33rd Regiment in the 1st NVA Division's order of battle for operations in western Pleiku. Thus, the present composition of the Communist B-3 Front military command includes five NVA regiments, three of which--the 88th, 32nd, and 66th--are subordinate to the 1st NVA Division, while the remaining two--the 33rd and 95B--are detached independent subordinates of the Front headquarters. The over-all strength of the B-3 Front is believed to be approximately 11,000 men.

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NVA Prisoner Reports Planned Move of NVA 325th Division

5. A North Vietnamese Army soldier captured on 6 June in western Quang Tri Province, has stated that the NVA 325th Division has just received orders to move in July from its present location northwest of Khe Sanh to the Da Nang area.

6. The captive reported that the 325th Division is currently subordinate to a headquarters located north of the Demilitarized Zone but that, in July, it will come under the control of the Viet Cong Military Region 5. He further stated that the 325th is now gathering supplies in preparation for the southward relocation.

7. At the present time two regiments of the 325th are believed to be positioned in the western Quang Tri - Laotian border area where they redeployed following last month's heavy contact with US Marines in the vicinity of Khe Sanh and Hill 881. Another regiment of the 325th has been contacted by Marines southwest of Con Thien.

8. Although the southward relocation of the entire NVA 325th Division would seem unlikely the prisoner's report cannot be discounted as this enemy unit may by now have replaced its battle losses. In addition, various collateral reports have for some time indicated that the Communists intend to launch coordinated attacks throughout I Corps during the coming "summer offensive."

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II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

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Ky Still Without Vice-Presidential Candidate

3. Premier Ky told the press at a conference on 12 June in Qui Nhon, where he had been conferring with most of the members of the Directorate, that he would select his vice-presidential running mate by 1 July. Under the terms of the presidential law, candidates must file their applications by 5 July. Ky gave no indication of who the individual would be but he did say that his choice would be between two civilians.

4. During the same press conference, Ky indicated that all presidential candidates would have equal facilities, including the use of aircraft to move about the country made available to them during the campaign which officially opens one month before the elections. Ky denied that the trips that he has been making recently are part of his campaign to become president but the fact remains that his activities receive very special attention over the government-controlled television. According to the press, signs supporting Ky's government as the "government of the people" are seen widely in Saigon.

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Despite Ky's denial that he is already campaigning,
it seems clear that his campaign has already begun.

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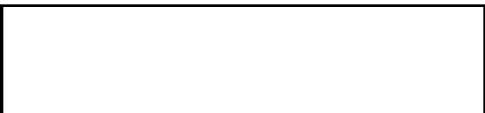
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